

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Rest Centers for Intellectuals in Poland/Accommodations,
Living Conditions/Locations

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Rest Centers for Intellectuals in Poland

1. "The Union of Writers in Poland maintains its own rest house (Dom Wypoczynkowy) in Obory near Konstancin in the palace formerly belonging to the Potulicki family (originally, Queen Marysienka's). Having been re-constructed and enlarged, the house has about 30 guest rooms. The house also accommodates intellectuals and artists of other professions if there is enough room available.
2. "In order to secure an accommodation there a member of the Union registers on a special list at Union Headquarters and consequently he is automatically entitled to obtain a place in the house for two-three weeks a year. If the house at Obory is full, he may obtain an accommodation in another house at Ustronie Morskie (managed by ZAIKS) or in a writers' house at Nieborow, or in any other similar center. In urgent cases, e.g. illness, convalescence etc., one may obtain a room out of turn with the approval of the Union's chairman Leon Kruczkowski.
3. "There are some exceptional cases when Sokorski or some other high official from the Ministry of Culture intervenes to secure a place. Such was the case of Andrzej Panufnik in summer 1950 when after his return to Moscow he learned that he was to be engaged in composing a great opus dedicated to the cause of peace. To help him to compose this work which was later called 'Peace Symphony', Sokorski secured the best room at Obory for him, and even sent down a piano from Warsaw for his use. Incidentally, the muddle in Polish bureaucratic life is so great that at the time everybody had forgotten that the piano had been sent on the minister's orders, and Panufnik was obliged to pay for the transport himself.

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4. "Until 1952 [redacted] its manager was Mrs. [fnu] Karska, from a former landowner family, aided by her mother Ela Dobiecka. They ran the house excellently like a guest house of the best standards; it was clean and attractive and very well taken care of. However, about 1951 some of the Communist guests opened a sort of campaign against this managership, arguing that the place was run in a 'reactionary' and 'aristocratic' way, and the management should be changed.
5. "This campaign was initiated by Ewa Fiszer, translator and poetess, married to a Dutch Communist (working in films, as far as I remember). It was she who first attacked the 'bourgeois atmosphere' in the house.

6. [redacted] the following guests:

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Wladyslaw Daszewski, theatrical decorator.

[fnu] Zelwerowicz, the old, well-known actor.

Wladyslaw Broniewski, prominent poet, permanently drunk as usual.

Professor [fnu] Rafalowski, Communist painter; he came from USSR after World War II and is now professor of the Academy of Arts in Warsaw. He is a personal friend of General [fnu] Berling.

[fnu] Lassota with his wife. He is a writer and journalist, very much pro-regime and proficient in political argument. His wife writes for 'Nowa Kultura'. Mr. and Mrs. Lassota distinguished themselves by coming down to lunch barefoot in the spotlessly clean and well-kept dining room. The guests, of course, widely commented upon this fact among themselves thinking this behavior highly objectionable; no one dared protest openly however because the Lassotas are very influential, and such a criticism might harm a speaker.

Ewa Fiszer.

7. "The rates at the house are rather moderate - 55 zlotys per day. Often reductions are granted, and then a person pays only 48 zlotys per day. This arrangement is very beneficial to writers and artists because for this modest sum they receive decent meals, clean and comfortable quarters, the right to use an attractive drawing room and a well-kept park.

25X1X8. [redacted] the rest house located in the palace of Nieborow (where a museum has also been established). But this place also enjoys a good reputation.

9. "Quite the contrary may be said about the house managed by ZAIKS in Ustronie Morskie near Szczecin. This house, established in a former hotel, is dirty and neglected. The guest rooms and dining rooms are in a deplorable state, and so are all the installations. The house is wired with radio loudspeakers which broadcast radio programs and emit messages all the time. No one gets proper rest in this rest home. This house is frequented by journalists, artists etc. of the new breed, of a very low level, who are in a constant state of political self-agitation."

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